

Children's Cabinet  
Work Group on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness

***Introductory Meeting***

*Tuesday, September 21, 2018*

*1:00 – 3:00 PM*

*Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room  
Richmond, Virginia*

***DRAFT MEETING MINUTES***

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**Members Present:**

Nina Marino  
Lisa Howard  
Catherine Hancock  
George Cunningham  
Lisa Specter-Dunaway  
Shikee Franklin  
Michael Martin  
Angela Wirt  
Anne-Marie Twohie  
Barb Newlin  
Kim Hulcher  
Rebecca Vinroot  
Laurel Aparicio

**I. Welcome**

The First Lady gave the welcoming address. She asked all members to introduce themselves and their organizations. She then introduced Jenna Conway to the workgroup.

Chief Conway emphasized the importance of making sure loops are in place, so that members will understand how the work of the workgroup is supporting the broader picture of expanding quality Early Childhood education. She added that there were three agenda items to discuss:

1. VA longitudinal data system, VLDS

2. Examining home visiting/care and support of pregnant women (early stages of a child's life).
3. New funding opportunities around planning on early childhood systems

## **II. Presentation and Discussion on Early Childhood Integrated Data System**

Chief Conway discussed that we know what works for children but how important it is to obtain data to inform policy. She also stated that it is important to make sure that the data is not biased. VLDS is taking data, connecting it and identifying it. It is possible to examine how all the children are doing to understand the macro trends. DVOE, VCCS, some social services, health services, JJS, and other groups use this data system. The more groups that use this system, the more one can see the overall picture. Chief Conway also discussed the challenges, that when creating the system, no one thought about connecting all the pipes.

The group discussed that it is not just about examining what happens to children, but what happens to them as they grow into adults. The data shows outcomes and it captures a snapshot of someone's life. It also gives insight into the services that people are receiving.

Chief Conway mentioned that the owners of the data continue to maintain it and that in order to receive the data, each agency must agree. A request must show the security measures in place to protect the data.

The Early Childhood Sector displays an array of providers. Better capacity is good for the short term but there is also a need to connect early intervention services to policy, which may be further down the road.

Chief Conway discussed the importance of connecting big programs, such as connecting head start, Pre-K and VPI. Looking at 20,000 kids to receive early intervention services, including home visitations. Home visitations also give insight into figuring out the family's needs and how the family works with children.

Chief Conway discussed broader goals:

1. How do you get all the systems part of this to limit gaps
2. How to make sure the system is fully integrated and is being use

There are mostly inputs and outcomes (like assessments) but it does not capture the day-to-day experiences. A decade ago, focus was on outputs. She gave an example of students who attended head start having better work ethics. However, the data does not tell anyone why or if their head-start program was good. There is a need to invest in the system.

Chief Conway noted of the 20,000 kids, we do not know how many are taking advantage of the programs or if families are receiving several opportunities or none. We are not sure if the most vulnerable families are able to take advantage of support services. Current efforts include trying to look at data to understand who is getting what and what percentage of families are able to access programs.

### **III. Presentation and Discussion on Home Visiting and Early Impact VA**

There are a lot of services offered in the home. There are people who collaborate with families, however there is not always the connection of understanding healthy pregnancies. We are starting to learn the importance but have not made the connections across our systems. It is important to provide prevention services and to work with families who are at-risk. These families tend to be young, lower income, lower educational attainment, tend to come from family histories of trauma and stress. They are not the only families we work with. The average age is 26. Home visiting groups work with people from age 13 – 40 and know that every parent needs support.

The presentation discussed that the goal is making sure that families have resources and support and for parents to be the best parents possible. This organization has always been data driven and has set the standards. There is a strong return on investment and that families who participate in home visiting, often their children do not end up in JJS.

The Commonwealth has 7 different models of home visiting

- CHIP of VA
- Early Head Start
- Healthy Families VA
- Nurse Family Partnerships
- Parents as teachers (PAT)
- Resource Mothers
- Healthy start/loving steps.

CHIP uses a nurse and home visitation team to work with families. CHIP has more of a health focus. Early head start more of a school readiness focus. However, there are a number of common program characteristics. All of the models are able to drill back down to common elements and common goals.

Every one of the programs is voluntary, free, long term, based on best practices, evidence based, extensive professional development training, community based and data driven. A lot of time is spent collecting data, addressing outcomes and goals.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded with Chief Conway announcing that she will work to set up future meetings and that the work group will discuss pre-school development grants and Virginia kindergarten readiness during their next meeting.